

REMARKS

Claims 9-13 and 15-26 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-8, and 14, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 22-26 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

The Examiner rejected claim 18 under §112, 2nd paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner asserted that claim 18 depends from canceled claim 1. In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to depend from claim 9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

- *The Examiner rejected claims 9-13 and 15-17 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Publication 2003/0064159 (hereinafter Motomura) in view of US Patent 6,010,570 to Motoda et al. (hereinafter Motoda), US Patent 6,254,682 to Mendiola et al. (hereinafter Mendiola) and Japan 09-241843 (hereinafter JP '843).*

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all the features as set forth in the claims.

Independent claims 9 and 17 individually set forth a coating method that is carried out with a coating apparatus comprising:

holding means for holding the substrate so that the surface to be coated by the coating liquid faces downward; said holding means having a

chucking means for receiving the substrate from the holding means by chucking the substrate in a state that the surface of the substrate to be coated faces downward,

wherein said holding means is capable of being separated from said chucking means in order that a turning means not influence the positional precision of the chucking means during coating.

None of the references, either individually or in combination disclose the above noted features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

- *The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 19 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Motomura in view of Motoda, Mendiola, and JP '843, and further in view of the admitted state of the prior art.*

As noted above, the Examiner's combination of Motomura, Motoda, Mendiola, and JP '843 is deficient. The Examiner cited the prior art as teaching that it is known to use capillary coating to coat large sized substrates, described as having at least one side with a length of 300 nm or more. However, the prior art fails to cure the above-noted deficiency in the combination of Motomura, Motoda, Mendiola, and JP '843. Accordingly, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine Motomura, Motoda, Mendiola, and JP '843, as suggested by the Examiner, any such combination would still fail to render obvious Applicant's claims 18 and 19.

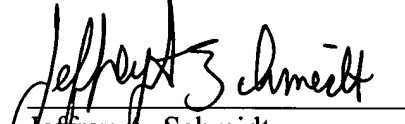
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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